

Second Week of Advent

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in **Isaiah the prophet**:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

John the Baptist appeared in the **wilderness** proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **People from the whole of the Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem** were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He lived on **locusts and wild honey**.

And this is what he proclaimed:

"One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit**."



Focus Questions

1. Why did John appear in the wilderness?
2. What does making the paths straight mean?
3. Who are these people that come to John in the wilderness?
4. Why is John at the Jordan River?
5. Why isn't John a vegan?
6. Who is to come after John?

REFLECTION

- John asks us to 'prepare a way for the Lord and make his paths straight.' What does it mean for us today?
- Take a serious look at the landscapes of your heart. What kinds of work do you need to do to make ready the way of the Lord? What tools would help?
- John describes himself as not being worthy to carry Jesus' sandals. How would you describe yourself in relation to Jesus?
- Life becomes a wilderness when human love is lost. When people live together but no longer share with each other, people are still alone in the heart of the human world. During advent, the Church invites us to stay awake to recognize others' cry for help. Love others in sincere love, don't deceive each other, live honestly with each other.